



Laws 2026, Chapter 108 – Establishing the Criminal Offense of Grooming (H.F. No. 3489)

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Section 1. Grounds for revocation, suspension, or denial. Allows Professional Educators Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) or the Board of School Administrators (BOSA) to refuse to issue, refuse to renew or automatically revoke a teacher’s license without a hearing if the teacher is convicted of grooming.

Sec. 2. Mandatory reporting. Requires a police department or county sheriff to notify PELSB or BOSA when a teacher is criminally charged with an offense that would allow the licensing authority to refuse to issue, refuse to renew or automatically revoke a teacher’s license if they’re convicted of the crime. Makes the section effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 3. Commissioner of children, youth, and families; education-related mandated reporter training module on grooming. (a) By August 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Children, Youth, and Families must update the mandated reporter training to include but not be limited to:

- (1) the requirement to report allegations of maltreatment of students, including students receiving special education services; and
- (2) addressing grooming and threatened sexual abuse, including the duty to report grooming as maltreatment under section 260E.06, how to identify the signs of grooming, and recognizing environments and circumstances that present an increased risk of grooming.

(b) The Commissioner of Children, Youth and Families must consult with the Department of Education in updating the training.

Sec. 4. Screening Guidelines. Prohibits screening guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Children, Youth, and Families from limiting an agency’s ability to screen in and investigate a report of grooming that occurred more than three years before it was reported.

Sec. 5. Definitions. For the purposes of section 609.352, defines “pattern” to mean two or more instances of conduct. Effective August 1, 2026, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 6. **Grooming.** Establishes the crime of grooming. Grooming occurs when a person, 18 years-old or older, expresses to a child the desire or intent to engage in sexual conduct with that child and engages in a deliberate pattern of conduct to methodically develop a false trusting relationship with the child that is intended to strategically manipulate the child to engage in sexual conduct with the person. Effective August 1, 2026, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 7. **Violations by person in positions of authority.** Provides for a felony violation if the person who commits the act is in a position of authority over the victim, is more than 36 months older, and the victim is under 18 years old. Effective August 1, 2026, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 8. **School violations.** Establishes that a person committing the acts that are crimes under this section is guilty of a felony if the person is employed or contracted to provide services for an elementary, middle, or secondary school and the victim is enrolled as a student at the school. Effective August 1, 2026, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 9. **Penalty.** Adds grooming, violations by persons in a position of authority, and school violations to the penalties under section 609.352. Effective August 1, 2026, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 10. **Appropriations; Department of Education.** Appropriates \$1,451,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the general fund to the Department of Education to increase the capacity of the student maltreatment program. Establishes the base appropriation in fiscal year 2028 and later.

Sec. 11. **Contingent Appropriation.** Clarifies that if more than one appropriation for the same purposes is enacted during the 2026 legislative session that the appropriation is only effective once.



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